Work related education

1796. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a move to raise the cost of higher education by enhancing college fee;

(b) if so, what steps Government contemplate to take to upgrade the quality of education; and

(c) whether Government are also considering to impart work related education which is the need of the hour?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) The government has asked the University Grants Commission (UGC) recently for rationalization of fee in University/College System in general, with particular reference to the institutions funded by the Central Government through the UGC.

(b) To ensure quality in higher education, the UGC has, during the Xth Plan Period, decided to provide for inter-net and intra-net connectivity for colleges & Universities, digital repository of research and teaching material, special funding of universities/colleges with Potential for Excellence and Special Scheme for development of universities and colleges in backward areas and geographically isolated regions, besides assessment and accreditation of institutions of higher learning.

(c) Yes, Sir. The UGC has introduced vocationalisation at under-graduate level to produce skilled manpower to meet the requirements of industry and trade. For this purpose, the commission has provided Rs. 40.00 crores in their budget for the financial year 2003-04.

Closed Kendriya Vidyayalas

1797. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question No. 3181 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 20th December, 2002 and state:

(a) details of Kendriya Vidyalayas—names and states closed/merged during the preceding three years;